Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

# Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 02220 270002Z

13
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 USIA-06

/063 W
---------- 025925
R 252256Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2141

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2220

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, VE
SUBJ: JOSE MANZO GONZALEZ NAMED MINISTER OF LABOR

SUMMARY. MANZO WAS UNEXPECTEDLY SWORN IN AS MINISTER OF LABOR ON FEBRUARY 24, ENDING MONTHS OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHO WOULD REPLACE LEIDENZ, WHO WAS EAGER TO RETURN TO THE SENATE. MANZO HAS LONG BEEN A MAVERICK WHO HAS WITHDRAWN TWICE FROM AD WHEN HE FELT THE PARTY WAS BECOMING TOO CONSERVATIVE. IN THE MID-1960'S HE TRIED TO GET THE PCV TO JOIN WITH THE PRN IN A UNITED FRONT OF THE LEFT. HE HAS FREQUENTLY SPOKEN OUT IN OPPOSITION TO U.S. POLICY. HE IS MUCH MORE OF A LEFTIST AND AN ACTIVIST THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, AND HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE LABOR MINISTRY. PEREZ MAY WANT A MORE ACTIVE MINISTER AND THUS WAS WILLING TO FACE THE DISPLEASURE OF MANY AD LOYALISTS WHO MISTRUST A MAN WHO REINSCRIBED IN AD ONLY A YEAR AGO AFTER NEARLY FIFTEEN YEARS OF OFTEN BITTER OPPOSITION TO THE PARTY AND MORE PARTICULARLY TO THE BETANCOURT AND LEONI GOVERNMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER MONTHS OF SPECULATION (75 CARACAS 8443) SENATOR JOSE MANZO GONZALEZ WAS SWORN IN ON FEBRUARY 24 AS THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR. OUTGOING MINISTER ANTONIO LEIDENZ WILL RETURN TO THE SENATE AND IS EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN ACTION DEMOCRATICA (AD) PARTY AFFAIRS. MANZO'S FIRST ACT AS MINISTER WAS TO ANNOUNCE THAT JUAN BLANCA GONZALEZ WILL REPLACE WENCESLAO MANTILLA AS DIRECTOR GENERAL (VICE MINISTER) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 02220 270002Z

MANTILLA, AN AD STAWLART, IS RUMORED TO BE DESTINED FOR THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

CORPORACION VENEZOLANO DE GUAYANA (CVG), PERHAPS AS THE HEAD OF THE SIDOR STEEL MILL.

2. MANZO WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 10, 1924, IN CARIPE, MONAGAS, AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN CARIPE HE WENT TO LAW SCHOOL BEGINNING IN THE EXTERNADO DE COLOMBIA IN BOGOTA, THEN TRANSFERRING TO AND RECEIVING HIS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ANDES IN MERIDA IN 1948. DURING THE PERIOD HE WAS A STUDENT MANZO BECAME ACTIVE IN THE PDN AND LATER IN ITS SUCCESSOR PARTY, AD. MANZO HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO THE LEFT OF THE MAINSTREAM OF AD AND HE WAS EXPELLED FROM AD IN 1947. AFTER THE 1948 COUP MANZO REJOINED AD AND ROSE TO THE POSITION OF NATIONAL SECRETARY OF ORGANIZATION DURING THE PEREZ JIMENEZ DICTATORSHIP. HE WAS JAILED IN 1951. RELEASED FROM PRISON IN 1954, HE LEFT VENEZUELA AND WENT INTO EXILE IN ARGENTINA, CHILE, AND ECUADOR UNTIL PEREZ JIMENEZ WAS OVERTHROWN IN 1958 WHEN HE RETURNED TO VENEZUELA. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE AD POLITICAL COMMITTEE FROM 1958 UNTIL 1961 WHEN HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE "AD-OPPOSITION" GROUP. IN 1962 HE JOINED THE BREAK AWAY PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO NACIONAL (PRN), OF WHICH HE EVENTUALLY BECAME SECRETARY GENERAL. DURING THE 1960'S AND INTO THE 1970'S MANZO WORKED HARD TO TRY TO UNITE THE FAR LEFT, INCLUDING THE MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA (PCV) INTO A SINGLE OPPOSITION. HE WAS A HARSH CRITIC OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE GUERRILLA THREAT IN THE MID-1960'S AND ONCE CLAIMED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT A COUP IN VENEZUELA IF IT WOULD LEAD TO A REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY ALTER THE STRUCTURE OF VENEZUELAN SOCIETY. AS THE PRN (ALSO KNOWN AS THE PRIN WHEN IT ADDED INTEGRATIONIST" TO ITS NAME TO UNDERLINE ITS WISH FOR A UNITED FRONT ON THE FAR LEFT) BEGAN TO COLLAPSE IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS DECADE AND AS IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WOULD BE THE AD CANDIDATE IN 1973, MANZO BEGAN TO MOVE BACK TOWARD AD AND HE RAN FOR THE SENATE AS AN INDEPENDENT ON THE AD SLATE IN THE 1973 ELECTION. MANZO FORMALLY REINSCRIBED IN AD ABOUT A YEAR AGO. MANZO HAS FREQUENTLY SPOKEN OUT AGAINST U.S. POLICY. HE HAS CRITICISED BOTH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER FOR SPEECHES WHICH HE CONSIDERS UNFRIENDLY TO RAW-MATERIAL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. MANZO IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BETTER ORATORS IN THE CONGRESS.

3. MANY AD PARTY REGULARS WHO WERE APPOINTED TO HIGH POSITIONS
CONFIDENTIAL



IN THE LABOR MINISTRY BY LIEDENZ ARE CONCERNED THAT MANZO WILL REPLACE THEM WITH HIS LEFTIST FRIENDS. IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY THAT MANZO WILL BE LESS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD EMPLOYERS THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. WHILE IT IS MUCH TOO SOON TO JUDGE, A DYNAMIC, ELOQUENT MAVERICK LIKE MANZO WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY CREATE A MINISTRY QUITE DISTINCT FROM THAT PRESIDED OVER BY CAUTIOUS, INARTICULATE, PARTY LOYALIST LEIDENZ.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

4. COMMENT. PRESIDENT PEREZ MAY HAVE NAMED MANZO TO THE LABOR MINISTER TO TRY TO MAKE THE MINISTRY MORE AGGRESSIVELY ON SUCH PROBLEMS AS UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THE GREAT DISPARITIES IN WAGES WHICH PEREZ REGARDS AS SERIOUS BARRIERS TO A MORE EGALITARIAN VENEZUELA. UNDER LEIDENZ IT WAS NOTORIOUS THAT THE LABOR MINISTRY HAD TO INPUT WHATEVER INTO THE SERIES OF RADICAL LABOR DECREES WHICH PEREZ ENACTED DURING HIS FIRST YEAR AND A HALF IN OFFICE. BOTH ORGANIZED LABOR, AT LEAST THE OLD LINE AD LEADERSHIP OF THE CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV), AND THE AD CEN WERE REPORTED COOL TOWARD THE MANZO CANDIDACY FOR THE MINISTRY. DESPITE THIS COOLNESS PEREZ HAS BROUGHT INTO HIS CABINET STILL ANOTHER MAN WHO IS NON GRATA TO MUCH OF THE AD ORTHODOXY.
SHLAUDEMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 25 FEB 1976
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1976CARACA02220
**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** n/a
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
**Errors:** N/A
**Film Number:** D760073-0883
**From:** CARACAS
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Image Path:**
**ISecure:** 1
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760216/aaaaanee.tel
**Line Count:** 129
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
**Office:** ACTION ARA
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Page Count:** 3
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Reference:** n/a
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Authority:** coburnhl
**Review Comment:** n/a
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 19 JUL 2004
**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**
**Review Referrals:** n/a
**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** JOSE MANZO GONZALEZ NAMED MINISTER OF LABOR SUMMARY. MANZO WAS UNEXPECTEDLY SWORN IN AS MINISTER OF LABOR
**TAGS:** PINT, ELAB, VE, (MANZO GONZALEZ, JOSE)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006